

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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R 071144Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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BELGRADE FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AGR ETRD RO

SUBJ: CCC FOR ROMANIA

REF: STATE 299945

1. AMBASSADOR PURSUED QUESTION OF ROMANIAN INTEREST IN CCC CREDITS WITH DEPY PM PATAN ON JAN 5. PATAN INDICATED THAT GOR HAD REVIEWED ORIGINAL REQUEST AND, IN LIGHT OF OTHER FOREIGN EXCHANGE PRIORITIES, HAD DECIDED TO REDUCE ITS REQUEST TO 120,000 TONS OF SOYBEANS, EVEN THOUGH SOYBEANS NOT YET ON CCC LIST, AND BREEDING CATTLE. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION PATAN CONFIRMED THAT GOR NOT INTERESTED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE IN PURCHASE OF OTHER COMMODITIES (I.E. CORN, BARLEY, AND COTTON) ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAD URGED APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR CCC CREDITS IN THESE AREAS.

2. WHILE RECALLING SECRETARY BUTZ'S STATEMENT THAT SOYBEANS HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ON LIST OF ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES, PATAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FAVORABLE DECISION COULD BE STILL REACHED ON REQUEST IN LIGHT OF US WILLINGNESS
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AT LEAST TO ENTERTAIN REQUEST. GOR WOULD BE PURCHASING

SOYBEANS IN ANY CASE BUT OBTAINING CCC CREDITS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT HELP. SOYBEANS NEEDED IN FIRST QUARTER OF YEAR. ASKED WHETHER NEWLY LISTED FEEDGRAINS SUCH AS CORN OR BARLEY COULD NOT SERVE ROMANIA'S PURPOSE EQUALLY WELL, PATAN SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY GOR EXPERTS THAT SOYBEANS WILL BE USED AS PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT IN FEED FORMULA, IN WHICH OTHER FEEDGRAINS COULD NOT BE SUBSTITUTED. AMBASSADOR ASKED HOW LONG PATAN EXPECTED ROMANIA WOULD CONTINUE TO NEED TO IMPORT SOYBEANS. PATAN SAID PROBABLY FOR NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS.

3. ON BREEDING CATTLE PATAN WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY QUANTITY, BUT HE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT COORDINATION BE UNDERTAKEN WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IMMEDIATELY AND THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE APPRECIATE THAT INCLUSION OF SOYBEANS ON CCC ELIGIBILITY LIST INVOLVES MULTITUDE OF FACTORS EXTENDING WELL BEYOND ROMANIA. IF IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT DECISION WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING BY END OF MONTH, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AS TO STAGE OF USG CONSIDERATION AND PROBABLE TIMING OF FINAL DECISION WHICH WE COULD PASS ON TO PATAN.
BARNES

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